

From: Peter J. Noel, President (203)-232-5506

Store #1: Gentle Jungle Inc.
470 Lewis Ave
Meriden, CT 06451
Westfield Shoppingtown

Store#2: Gentle Jungle Inc.
495 Union St.
Waterbury, CT 06706
Brass Mill Center

To: Environment Committee

Objective: Opposition to S.B. No. 499. An act concerning a pet lemon law. Opposition to H.B. No. 5493. An act establishing a dog and cat lemon law. Opposition to H.B. No. 5801. An act prohibiting the sale of dogs obtained from puppy mills.

Environment Committee,

My name is Peter Noel and I speak in opposition to the proposed bills. I am the owner of Gentle Jungle Pet Store in the Waterbury mall and recently opened a second location in the Meriden mall. My stores are staffed by thirty full and part time animal loving workers. Each store has approximately sixty puppies and twenty kittens as well as virtually every other pet that is legal. My managers each have over twenty years of pet experience and are paid very well to keep everything correct for the animals. Our stores have Southbury Veterinary Hospital on retainer to help ensure and maintain the health of the pets. The vet examines each puppy and kitten on a weekly basis, (state law is only every other week), at a cost of \$100.00/hour. Total vet cost last year totaled \$80,000 to have healthy animals.

I opened my Waterbury Gentle Jungle in December 1997 as my life long dream of operating the cleanest, healthiest pet store. I have been inspected on approximately a monthly basis by the Department of Agriculture Animal control for over eleven years. The animal control officer has over a sixty point checklist, (see attached), and I have never been closed for business for even a day. Nor have I ever been fined even one dollar based on inspections. I am proud of this record and it does not just happen by accident, it happens through hard work and a strong love for animals.

The reason I object to the dog and cat lemon law is as follows. Prior to the puppy arriving at the pet store, I require that the breeder's veterinarian give a complete physical prior to the puppy being shipped. If there is anything wrong, the puppy will not be shipped. Upon arriving to the pet store, Southbury Veterinary Hospital performs a complete double check physical examination. Anything wrong, the puppy is sent back to the breeder and I do not buy from that breeder again. The puppy is then sold with a written warrantee. The first line of the warrantee states that the customer is to have the puppy examined by the veterinarian of their choice for an independent triple check. Any symptom of poor health and the puppy is returned for a full refund. I would not put in the first line of the warrantee, "Have your puppy examined by a vet within fourteen days," if I had anything to hide. The primary purpose of the customer bringing the puppy to the vet

is so the vet may educate the new pet owner on future shots, medications, etc. to keep the pet healthy. At this point, the breeder's vet says the puppy is healthy, Southbury Veterinary Hospital says the puppy is healthy, and the customer's vet says the puppy is healthy. Not much gets by three veterinarians independently!

I object to the proposed law reflecting up to twice the purchase price for a congenital or hereditary condition, because if one vet or two vets or three different vets cannot detect something to maybe develop in the future of the puppy, how could I possibly detect it and prevent it? Healthy people can have children who develop health problems. This is not a parent's fault; this is the fault of nature. Healthy dogs may have puppies that develop a health problem. This is very unfortunate, but further legislation will not solve it.

In summary, I submit a copy of my written warrantee and I invite any of you to visit my two pet stores and enjoy all my healthy animals. I have a great deal more to say and would be please to answer any questions. It is an unfortunate reality that I cannot educate you more on my fine business, which I am proud of and which the customers love, in three minutes.

Sincerely,

Peter Noel
President
Gentle Jungle In.
(203)-232-5506



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ANIMAL CONTROL DIVISION

PET SHOP INSPECTION

TRADE NAME Gentle Joe's DATE 12/27/07 TIME 1300
LICENSEE Pete Noel STATE LICENSE # 229
LOCATION 495 Union St TOWN Waterbury

	YES	NO		YES	NO	N/A
STRUCTURAL STANDARDS, 22-344-16a			ANIMAL HEALTH, 22-344-20a			
Structurally sound	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Food: palatable, uncontaminated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Good repair to prevent injuries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	sufficient quantity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clean and sanitary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	stored properly	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proper waste disposal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Animals: adults fed at least once daily	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Control of vermin, insects, odors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	young fed at least twice daily	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proper disposal of excreta, bedding, debris	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Feeding pans: durable and sanitized daily	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ENCLOSURES, 22-344-17a			Self feeders: cleaned and sanitized regularly	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Suited to species of animals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Water: potable and provided at all times	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Structurally sound	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	containers clean and sanitized	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Good repair to prevent injuries or escape	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dogs and cats prior to sale:			
Walls and floors impervious to moisture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	held a minimum of 48 hours	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Grid flooring	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	housed separately and observed daily	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
proper material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	verified by veterinarian to be healthy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
adequate gauge	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sick or injured animals isolated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clean and disinfected	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	examined and treated by a veterinarian	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adequate physical comfort for animals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dogs in cages removed and exercised daily	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Animals can turn, stand, sit, lie comfortably	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	DOG AND CAT RECORDS, 22-344-25c			
Overcrowding (complies)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bound log book readily available in store	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Compatible animals in grouped housing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consecutively numbered pages	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Separation of female dogs and cats in season	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Complete information including medical care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FACILITY TEMPERATURE, 22-344-18a			Information entered within 72 hours	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sufficiently heated to protect animals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	USDA forms 18-1 or equivalent if applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Temperature between 65 and 78 degrees	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSITTACINE BIRDS, 19a-36-A23			
Protection from direct sunlight	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Records kept of all transactions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mechanical ventilation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	complete buyer information	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
minimizes drafts, odors, condensation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Parakeets have closed metal seamless bands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
provides health and comfort	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	IMPORTED BIRDS, 22-325			
operating properly	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Health certificate from state of exportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
LIGHTING, 22-344-19a			Bird permit / quarantine release form	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ample, well distributed lighting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SALE OF TURTLES, 19a-102a			
Minimum of eight hours per day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shell is minimum of four inches	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Protection from excessive illumination	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Salmonella caution notice posted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
PROHIBITED SALES, 22-344-21a			The buyer provided with:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Animals on prohibited list:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	a copy of the salmonella caution notice	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
not on exhibition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	veterinarian information on proper care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
not offered for sale	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Buyer signed form indicating they have	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Animals not indicating:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	read the salmonella caution notice	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
signs of infectious disease	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PERMIT FOR IMPORTING, 26-55			
signs of nutritional disease	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	This facility imports reptiles or amphibians	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
severe parasitism	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	and has required DEP import permit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
fractures	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
congenital abnormalities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

INSPECTED ON COMPLAINT YES ☐ NO ☒

APPROVED ☒ NOT APPROVED ☐

OFFICER R. Noel

OWNER OR AGENT Andrew J. Hutton